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## **Sen. Tony Stamas welcomes testimony from Atlanta superintendent**

**Lansing** – State Sen. Tony Stamas (R-Midland) today welcomed Paul Mancine, superintendent of the Atlanta Community Schools in Montmorency County, to testify in support of legislation that would expand the exceptions to the earnings limitation for school district retirees who return to work on a temporary basis.

Stamas invited Mancine to share his experiences, compiled from his 34 years in education, with the Senate Committee on Education regarding House Bill 4340. The legislation amends the public school employee retirement act.

“All across the state, more frequently in rural areas, schools with teacher shortages are struggling,” Stamas said. “Without the ability to have retirees return to work for a limited time, schools are faced with the choice of reducing or eliminating their scholastic programs.”

By expanding the limitations, school districts could continue their practice of allowing retired teachers and school personnel to fill critical positions for a short period of time without affecting their retirement allowance.

“Not only does this bill help our school district, it will also aid the other small northern districts who are making difficult financial decisions while trying to make the most out of limited funds,” said Mancine, an Alcona County resident.

The Senate Committee on Education unanimously passed HB 4340. The bill will now go before the full Senate.

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**Editor’s note: A photo of Senator Stamas welcoming Superintendent Mancine is available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at:**  
<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Stamas/Stamas.htm>